6th August 1955]

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" May I know whether pepper comes under Commercial Crops Marketing Act and if not, will the Government be pleased to bring it under the provisions of that Act? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice. I would also look into the suggestion made by the hon. Member."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Are the Government aware that peasants generally harvest pepper before they attain full maturity due to economic difficulties and sell it to speculators. The Hon. Minister just now said that he would look into the question of giving help to them through co-operative societies. May I inform the Hon. Minister that co-operative societies give loans to the peasants provided they own lands and are assessed to land revenue? Most of the lands where pepper is grown are waste lands and are not assessed to land revenue. So, the peasants are not able to enjoy the benefits of taking loans through co-operative societies. May I know whether the Government will take special measures to provide cheap credit facilities to pepper growers? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I shall look into the matter."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" Since this pepper is a dollar earning commodity, will the Madras Government be pleased to appoint a Special Officer to go into the conditions of pepper growers and report to the Government how pepper cultivation can be carried on on proper lines? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I shall examine that suggestion."

District Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli.

* 1979 *Q.*—Sri P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR (on behalf of Sri S. P. Thangavelu) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government proposed to increase the bed-strength of the Maternity ward in the District Headquarters Hospital, Tiruchirappalli, in 1948; and

(*b*) why a sum of Rs. 1,00,000 sanctioned in 1948 for this purpose has not been spent for that purpose?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) No such sanction was accorded by the Government."

Closure of the Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya, Thyagarayanagar.

* 1980 *Q.*—Sri S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that Thakkar Bapa Vidyalaya, Thyagarayanagar, has been closed from 7th February 1955; and

(b) the amount of grant given by the Government to this institution in 1954 both in respect of running the Vidyalaya and the hostel?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" (a) No, Sir. It had to be closed temporarily for about a week from the morning of the 8th February.

" (b) A sum of Rs. 20,523–14–0 was paid as boarding grants to the hostel attached to the Vidyalaya during 1954–55 by the Harijan Welfare Department. The amount of maintenance grant paid to the Vidyalaya during 1954 by the Industries Department was Rs. 3,000."

9-10 a.m. SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" May I know from the Hon. Minister what the reasons for the temporary closure were? This House was in session during that time and a number of pupils of the institution were here in this compound to represent the matter. Their education was discontinued for a short time. What action have the Government taken against the persons responsible for the temporary closure?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The Director of Harijan Welfare interceded on behalf of the students and he was able to resolve the situation. Therefore the question does not arise now."

Panchayat Board, Arumuganeri.

* 1981 Q.—

MR. SPEAKER :—" As the hon. Member Sri S. T. Adityan is not present, the question and answer will be printed in the proceedings."

SRI S. T. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state—

(a) on what date a vacancy arose in the office of the President, Panchayat Board, Arumuganeri (Tirunelveli district), due to the election of the last incumbent as Vice-President of the District Board;

(b) whether the casual vacancy has been filled up by a fresh election; and

(c) if not, why?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" (a) The vacancy arose on 5th November 1954.

" (b) Yes, Sir.

" (c) Does not arise."

Appointment of Sarishtadar, District Magistrate's Court Tiruchirappalli.

* 1982 Q.—SRI P. RANGASWAMI REDDIAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a member of the Revenue Department was appointed as Sarishtadar of the District Magistrate's